

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04873 211752Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /081 W
-----067209 211753Z /43

O 211710Z AUG 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2198

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, SF WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SABC EDITORIAL ON ELECTION/INDEPENDENCE

DATES

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SABC AUGUST 21 EDITORIAL ASSERTING
IT IS "CRUCIAL" TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR THE NAMIBIA
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN 1978 AS "EXPRESSED IN THE WESTERN
PLAN, ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND AGREED TO BY
THE SAG."

BEGIN TEXT: THE DATE OF THE ELECTION FOR A CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA IS CRUCIAL. IN THREE
SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS, THE WESTERN PLAN PROVIDES THAT IT
SHOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR. PARAGRAPH TWO DESCRIBES THE PLAN
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AS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE
DURING 1978. PARAGRAPH THREE STATES THAT THE PURPOSE OF
THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS THE ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY
BY AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT DURING 1978. PARAGRAPH ELEVEN
REQUIRES THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO COMPLETE ITS WORK SO
AS TO PERMIT THE INSTALLING OF AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT
DURING 1978. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE PARAGRAPHS OF

THE PLAN PUBLISHED IN MARCH HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EXHAUSTING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE WESTERN FIVE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT AND THE PARTIES IN SWA. DESCRIBED AS FINAL AND DEFINITIVE BY THE WESTERN FIVE, IT WAS ACCEPTED IN TOTO BY PRETORIA IN APRIL.

SWAPO, HOWEVER, CONTINUED ITS DELAYING TACTICS. IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, IN TERMS OF AN EARLIER AGREEMENT WITH THE FIVE, MR. JUSTICE STEYN ASSUMED DUTY IN WINDHOEK AS ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. IMMEDIATELY HE INVITED SWAPO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO MAKE PREPARATIONS. THIS AND A SERIES OF SIMILAR INVITATIONS (THE LAST WAS MADE A FEW DAYS AGO) WERE SUMMARILY REJECTED AND SWAPO CONTINUED WITH ITS TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING PRETORIA'S APRIL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLAN, SWAPO DELAYED ITS RESPONSE FOR MORE THAN 11 WEEKS. THEN ON JULY 12 AFTER A MEETING IN LUANDA WITH THE FIVE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT IT TOO HAD ACCEPTED. BUT IMMEDIATELY ITS SPOKESMAN BEGAN CHALLENGING VARIOUS OF THE PLAN'S PROVISIONS.

THE PLAN, WITH ITS THRICE REPEATED REFERENCE TO ELECTIONS AND INDEPENDENCE DURING 1978, WAS ENDORSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND DESPITE THE WEST'S DUPPLICITY CONCERNING WALVIS BAY, PRETORIA INVITED THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. AHTISAARI, TO SWA. ON THURSDAY,
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AFTER A VISIT TO THE BORDER AREA, MR. AHTISAARI SAID THERE WAS A LONG WAY AHEAD BEFORE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD. AND THIS SHOULD BE READ TOGETHER WITH A STATEMENT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THAT POLLING CANNONT TAKE PLACE BEFORE MAY. MR. AHTISAARI SPEAKS OF THE NEED TO CREATE THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE BUT IN RECENT WEEKS NO LESS THAN 75 PER CENT OF THE ELIGIBLE SOUTH WEST AFRICANS HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE. HAS THERE EVER IN ANY EMERGENT STATE BEEN MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THE READINESS OF THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS ?

IT IS NOT THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE THAT DISTURB THE ATMOSPHERE BUT SWAPO. IT PERSISTS WITH ITS VIOLENCE AND, LIKE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN RHODESIA, ABIDES BY THE PRECEPT THAT POWER GROWS BY THE BARREL OF THE GUN.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN SWA SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THAT PRECEPT HAS NO DEADLINE, NEITHER MAY OF 1979 NOR MAY OF ANY YEAR. DELAYING THE ELECTION CAN BUT WORSEN THE ATMOSPHERE AND DISILLUSION THOSE WHO HONESTLY BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY.

IMPARTIALITY FOR WHICH MR. AHTISAARI APPEALS CANNOT
REQUIRE EQUAL CONSIDERATION FOR A PARTY WHICH IS CONSISTENTLY
VIOLATING THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF AN AGREEMENT AND SEEKS
NOW TO BREAK ONE OF ITS KEY PROVISIONS. IMPARTIALITY,
EQUITY AND HONOR, AND THE SUCCESS OF THIS WHOLE OPERATION
DEMAND ADHERENCE TO THE ELECTION DATE EXPRESSED IN THE
WESTERN PLAN, ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND
AGREED TO BY THE SAG. END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-0599
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780842/aaaabisw.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2d05160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1676876
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: SABC EDITORIAL ON ELECTION/INDEPENDENCE DATES FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SABC AUGUST 21 EDITORIAL ASSE
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, SOPN, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2d05160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014